

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CCO-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 H-02 INR-07

IO-10 L-03 NSC-05 SP-02 OC-05 PRS-01 SS-15 USSS-00

SY-05 FAA-00 WRD-01 SCCT-01 /074 W

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O P 270545Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7959

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

CINCPACREPPHIL PRIORITY

CINCPAC PRIORITY

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINSN PR, JA

SUBJECT: HIJACKING OF JAPANESE FREIGHTER

1. JAPANESE COUNSELLOR ADVISED EMBASSY THAT FIVE PERSONS REPRESENTING COMPANY INTERESTS AND CARRYING REQUESTED RANSOM DEPARTING FOR ZAMBOANGA AFTERNOON 27 SEPTEMBER TO ATTEMPT ARRANGE DELIVERY OF RANSOM BY SMALL BOAT TO FREIGHTER. FIVEPERSONS ACCOMPANIED BY JAPANESE EMBASSY OFFICIAL WHO IS TO ATTEMPT TO SECURE COOPERATION OF SOUTHWESTCOM WHICH IS HANDLING MATTER FOR GOP. JAPANESE EMBASSY HAS SO FAR BEEN UNABLE TO OBTAIN ANY GUIDANCE FROM GOP AS TO WHAT ITS POLICY TOWARDS HIJACKERS AND RANSOM DELIVERY WILL BE. SINCE JAPANESE CONTACTS SO FAR ONLY WITH PHILIPPINE MILITARY, WHICH PROFESSES INABILITY TO SECOND GUESS SOUTHWESTCOM, WE SUGGESTED THEY REQUEST GUIDANCE FROM SECRETARY MELCHOR'S OFFICE.

2. ALTHOUGH JAPANESE WANT TO PAY OFF HIJACKERS, SOUTHWESTCOM
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CURRENTLY PURSUING APPARENTLY DIFFERENT POLICY. ACCORDING TO

COMPANY OFFICIALS, BOAT
WAS LOCATED BY PHILIPPINE NAVY PATROL CRAFT AND ULTIMATELY
CLOSELY SURROUNDED BY EIGHT CRAFT. PROXIMITY OF NAVAL CRAFT
MADE CONDITIONS ON FREIGHTER SO UNPLEASANT THAT COMPANY REQUESTED
AND PHILIPPINE NAVY AGREED TO WITHDRAW SOME DISTANCE FROM FREIGHTER.
PHILIPPINE NAVY HAS NOT INDICATED WHAT ITS ORDERS ARE BUT JAP-
ANESE EMBASSY SUSPECTS THAT NAVY MAY PREVENT DELIVERY OF RANSOM.
ACCORDING TO JAPANESE COUNSELLOR, GOP RESPONSE TO THIS CASE FAR
LESS RESPONSIVE THAN TO RECENT KIDNAPPING IN ZAMBOANGA OF JAPANESE
TOURIST SEKI.

3. COMMENT: GOP MAY NOT HAVE YET DEVISED FINITE POLICY TOWARDS
THIS LATEST HIJACKING BUT IT OBVIOUSLY REGARDS INCIDENT AS FAR MORE
SERIOUS THAN KIDNAPPING OF ONE INDIVIDUAL IN VIEW OF ORGANIZED
AND ARMED PARTICIPATION OF MUSLIMS, AND AS POSSIBLE INDICATION
OF CONTINUED HARRASSMENT BY MUSLIMS IN THIS MANNER.
SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

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